

In re Application of: Nathaniel Heard

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Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

CLAIM 1 (currently amended) A modular tire assembly, comprising:

a tire casing having a replaceable tire tread, a first side wall and a second side wall, ~~said tire casing defining a tire interior area; a said~~ replaceable tire tread captured by said first side wall and said second side wall, said tire casing defining a tire interior area;

an inflatable member having a plurality of inflatable inner tube segments disposed within said tire interior area, each inner tube segment inflated and deflated independent from all other said inner tube segments;

a pair of split rims, each of said pair of split rims having a hub member inserted within an central opening defined define by said first side wall, said second side wall and said inflatable member; and

means for connecting said pair of split rims to each other.

CLAIM 2 (previously presented) The modular tire assembly of claim 1 wherein said means for connecting said pair of split rims comprises:

a plurality of rim-mounted studs and associated nuts connecting the hub members together such that an outer flange portion of a first of said pair of split rims abuts an outer surface portion of said first side wall adjacent the central opening and an outer flange portion of a second of said pair of split rims abuts and outer surface portion of said second side wall adjacent the central opening.

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CLAIM 3 (previously presented) The modular tire assembly of claim 1 wherein each of said a plurality of inflatable inner tube segments having an air filler valve stem.

CLAIM 4 (currently amended) A modular tire, comprising:

a tire casing having a replaceable tire tread, a first side wall and a second side wall, ~~said tire casing defining a tire interior area;~~

~~a replaceable tire tread;~~

means for attaching and detaching said replaceable tire tread to said tire casing first side wall and said second side wall to define a tire interior area; and

at least one inflatable inner tube segment disposed within said tire interior area.

CLAIM 5 (previously presented) The modular tire of claim 4 wherein said means for attaching and detaching comprises:

a first hole pattern disposed along a circumference of said first side wall;

a second hole pattern disposed along a circumference of said second side wall;

a third hole pattern disposed along a first side of said replaceable tire tread for alignment with said first hole pattern;

a fourth hole pattern disposed along a second side of said replaceable tire tread for alignment with said second hole pattern; and

a plurality of bolts and captive nuts;

wherein once the hole patterns are properly aligned each one of said plurality of bolts is inserted through a corresponding hole in said first hole pattern, said second hole pattern, said third hole pattern and said fourth hole pattern and once properly inserted said associated captive nut is securely disposed on the inserted end of said bolt.

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CLAIM 6 (original) The modular tire of claim 5, wherein the number of plurality of bolts and captive nuts provided corresponds to the number of hole patterns of either said first hole pattern, said second hole pattern, said third hole pattern or said fourth hole pattern.

CLAIM 7 (previously presented) The modular tire of claim 4 wherein a plurality of inflatable inner tube segments are disposed within said tire interior area, wherein each of said plurality of inflatable inner tube segments are independently inflatable and deflatable from all other inner tube segments.

CLAIM 8 (currently amended) A modular tire assembly, comprising:

a tire casing having a first side wall having a first hole pattern disposed along its outer circumference, and a second side wall having a second hole pattern disposed along its outer circumference; and a replaceable tire tread, said replaceable tire tread including a third hole pattern disposed along a first side for alignment with said first hole pattern and a fourth hole pattern disposed along a second side for alignment with said second hole pattern;

means for attaching and detaching said replaceable tire tread to said first side wall and said second side wall ~~said tire~~ ~~casing defining to define~~ a tire interior area; and

an inflatable member having a plurality of independent inflatable inner tube segments disposed within said tire interior area;

a pair of split rims, each of said pair of split rims having a hub member inserted within an central opening defined ~~define~~ by said first side wall, said second side wall and said inflatable member; and

means for connecting said pair of split rims to each other.

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CLAIM 9 (previously presented) The modular tire assembly of claim 8 wherein said means for attaching comprises a plurality of bolts and captive nuts; wherein once the hole patterns are properly aligned each one of said plurality of bolts is inserted through a corresponding hole in said first hole pattern, said second hole pattern, said third hole pattern and said fourth hole pattern and once properly inserted said associated captive nut is securely disposed on the inserted end of said bolt.

Claim 10 (previously presented) The modular tire assembly of claim 9, wherein the number of plurality of bolts and captive nuts provided corresponds to the number of hole patterns of either said first hole pattern, said second hole pattern, said third hole pattern or said fourth hole pattern.

CLAIM 11 (previously presented) The modular tire assembly of claim 2 wherein each of said plurality of inflatable inner tube segments having an air filler valve stem and at least one of said pair of split rims having a plurality of slots; wherein when said first split rim and said second split rim are connected together each air filler valve stem protrudes through one of said plurality of slots.

CLAIM 12 (previously presented) The modular tire assembly of claim 1 wherein said tire casing having a first plurality of grooves around it circumference and said replaceable tread having a second plurality of grooves which mate with said first plurality of grooves to prevent said replaceable from slipping during operation of a vehicle associated with said modular tire assembly.

CLAIM 13 (previously presented) The modular tire assembly of claim 8 wherein each inner tube segment inflated and deflated independent from all other said inner tube segments

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CLAIM 14 (previously presented) The modular tire assembly of claim 8 wherein each of said a plurality of inflatable inner tube segments having an air filler valve stem.

CLAIM 15 (previously presented) The modular tire assembly of claim 8 wherein each of said plurality of inflatable inner tube segments having an air filler valve stem and at least one of said pair of split rims having a plurality of slots; wherein when said first split rim and said second split rim are connected together each air filler valve stem protrudes through one of said plurality of slots.